NEWSLETTER

Of The Arboretum of The Barnes Foundation

MERION, PENNSYLVANIA 19066
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INTRODUCTORY

With this issue is initiated a series of occasional newsletters emanating from the Arboretum of The Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania. Its purpose is to convey information concerning the Arboretum and its School to present and former students and to publish articles of a botanical and horticultural nature which, it is hoped, will be of interest to other arboreta and botanical gardens in this country and abroad.

John M. Fogg, Jr., Director

The 1968 Garden Tour

JOHN M. FOGG, JR.

From May 10 to 31 my wife and I conducted a group of 38 persons, many of them students of the Arboretum School, on a Garden Tour of Switzerland, Italy, Jugoslavia and Greece. We left J. F. Kennedy Airport in New York by regularly scheduled jet flight on Friday, May 10, and arrived in Geneva the following morning.

As our plane approached the airport we were struck by the number of golden rectangles dotted among the fertile farms west of the Lake of Geneva. We took these to be some kind of mustard and were not too far wrong, since later they turned out to be fields of rape (*Brassica Napa*), which is highly valued as a source of oil as well as a forage crop.

From our hotel in Geneva we had an excellent view not only of the lake, but also of the tree-lined walks and beautifully maintained flower-beds along its shores. The trees were double avenues of London plane (*Platanus* × *acerifolia*) trained in umbrella fashion, so that their interlacing branches formed a dense canopy of shade over the sidewalks. The flower-beds along the esplanade were a riot of color, due largely to a skillful blending of multi-hued pansies, orange and yellow wallflowers (*Cheiranthus*), and deep blue Chinese forget-me-nots (*Cynoglossum amabile*).

Those members of the party who had not visited western or central Europe before were amazed to see 100-foot tall specimens of the California big tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) growing near the hotel. The same applies to the redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), the incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), and the Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), many fine trees of which are to be seen in and around Geneva. Indeed these and other species native to our Pacific states thrive far better in Europe than they do in eastern North America.

The first afternoon in Geneva was devoted to sightseeing and the following morning we visited "Floraire" at Chêne-Bourg, the garden-nursery of M. Aymon Correvon, who received us and showed us around. Dominated by a picture-book example of a typical Swiss chalet and accented by magnificent cedars, spruces and firs, was an impressive assemblage of alpine and rock-garden plants from Switzerland and other European countries. Attractively arranged along a series of winding walks were numerous species of such characteristic alpine genera as *Leontopodium* (edelweiss), *Gentiana* and *Androsace* (Fig. 1). Other

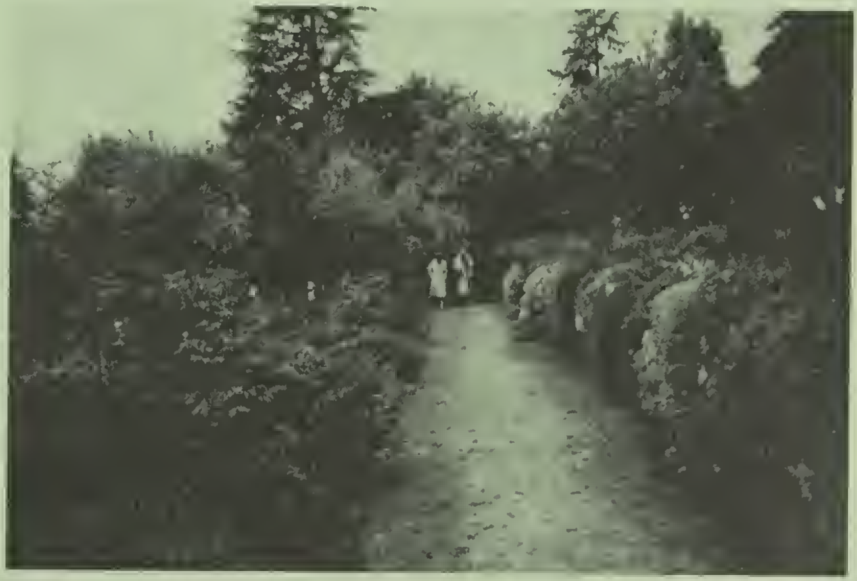

Fig. 1. A view in Floraire, Chêne-Bourg

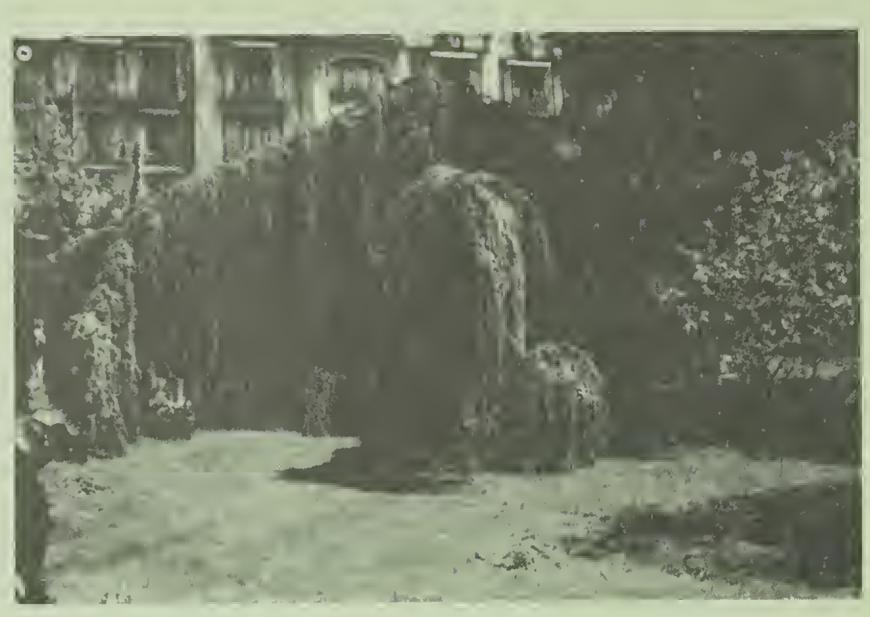

Fig. 2. *Cedrus atlantica* var. *pendula* in Montreux

interesting groups which were well represented were *Cyclamen, Dianthus, Aethionema, Primula, Lithospermum, Sedum,* and *Sempervivum.* One of the most important alpine genera is *Saxifraga,* of which there were here some three score species in a bewildering array of foliage and color forms.

Although during most of our three weeks in Europe we were blessed with fine weather, our first two days in Geneva were spent under low skies, with intermittent showers. The latter in no way hampered our activities and our visit to the Botanical Garden on the afternoon of May 12 must be regarded as one of the high points of our tour. This garden, established over two centuries ago, is renowned, among other things, for its expansive collection of rock-garden plants, beautifully displayed in a naturalistic setting and intelligently labeled. There are an interesting assortment of trees and shrubs, a greenhouse replete with unusual tropical material and a number of formal gardens featuring spring-flowering species. One of the special attractions of which I had a vivid recollection dating from my first visit in 1956 was a series of small beds containing plants used in medicine, in cooking, in perfumery, as fibers, etc.

On the morning of May 13 our party left by motorcoach for the drive along the north shore of the lake to Montreux. Our route took us through Nyon, St. Prex, Morges (with its low-terraced vineyards), and Lausanne to Montreux, where we had lunch at the sumptuous Palace Hotel. In the extensive gardens adjoining the hotel were many plants of outstanding interest, chief among which was a superb specimen of a weeping Atlas cedar, *Cedrus atlantica* var. *pendula* (Fig. 2).

Following luncheon we left Montreux by train, via the Simplon Tunnel, for Stresa, Italy. This train-ride, which must be considered one of the most spectacular in Europe, took us up the valley of the Rhone River through Bex, Martigny-Ville, Sion, Sierre and Brig, before entering the famous tunnel and descending into northern Italy. For nearly three hours those members of the party who had cameras (and that meant almost everyone) stood along the right-hand corridor of our reserved coach photographing the panorama of seemingly endless snow-capped mountains to the south of us.

Arrival late in the afternoon in Stresa permitted only flitting glimpses of Lake Maggiore, but we were to see a great deal of it and its companion Lakes, Varese and Como, during the next three days. An inspection of the ample grounds surrounding the hotel revealed a great many interesting plants. One of the most unusual was a large specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora* which had been carefully trimmed to an almost spherical shape (Fig. 3). One of the tallest trees of western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) any of us had ever seen was growing close to a handsome Spanish fir (*Abies Pinsapo*). All three of the true cedars (*C. atlantica, C. libani* and *C. Deodara*) were represented by fine mature specimens, as were *Sequoia* and *Sequoiadendron.* One of the trees that never fails to excite interest, no matter how often one sees it, is the "monkey-puzzle," from the Andes of South America (*Araucaria araucana*). We had seen small specimens of it in Geneva, but here and elsewhere in northern Italy it attains even greater proportions. Another surprise was the frequent occurrence of enormous trees of camphor (*Cinnamomum Camphora*), a native of southeastern Asia.

Our first morning was devoted to a visit to the Villa Taranto at Verbania-Pallanza on the western shore of Lake Maggiore. This garden, which is one of the showplaces of the lakes region, was established in 1931 by the Scotsman, Captain Neil McEacharn, who died in 1964. Our party was received by the Curator, Mr. D. Barmes, who generously dedicated the entire morning to guiding us through the extremely rich and beautifully maintained collections. The entering walk, with lawns like green felt pads, leads through a double row of conifers, one of the rarest of which was the Himalayan spruce, *Picea spinulosa.*

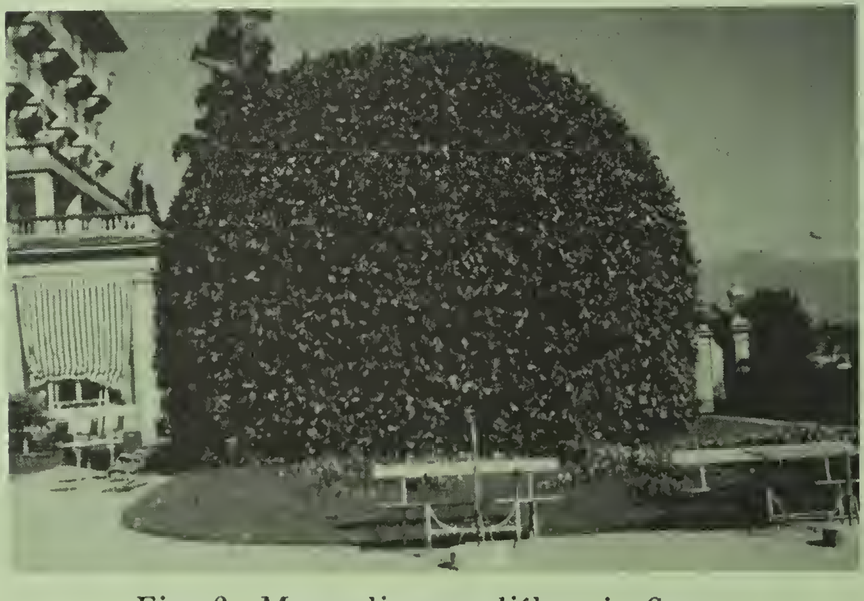

Fig. 3. *Magnolia grandiflora* in Stresa

There were also mature trees of Serbian spruce (*P. Omorika*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), and *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana* var. *aurea*. We were intrigued to see four species of *Paulownia,* of which *P. Fortunei* is probably the one least known in cultivation. We were too late for most of the magnolias, but the Japanese *M. Sieboldii* and our native American umbrella magnolia (*M. tripetala*) were in full bloom. Another plant which was at the peak of perfection was *Choisya ternata,* a fragrant white-flowered Mexican member of the Rutaceae. Other plants of special interest were *Caesalpinia Sepiaria,* (with golden yellow blossoms,) *Fabiana imbricaria* (that astonishing heath-like member of the Solanaceae) and the madroña of our Pacific coast (*Arbutus Menziesii*), with light cinnamon-brown trunks. To me, at least, one of the crowning experiences of our visit was to see a magnificent plant of the Asiatic *Daphniphyllum macropodum,* some 20 feet tall (Fig. 4). This evergreen shrub, a member of the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge Family, is assigned by Rehder to "Zone VII" and is practically unknown in cultivation in our Middle Atlantic States.

Many pages would be required in order fully to do justice to this superb garden, with its formal plantings, its fountains, its aquatic gardens and its splendid vistas of lake and mountains. Suffice it to say that no one who has ever visited Villa Taranto on a bright sunny day, such as was ours, is likely ever to forget it.

In the afternoon of the same day we boarded one of the launches that plies among the small islands of Lake Maggiore, our destination being Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean islands. Here, in semiformal plantings are rhododendrons of tree-like dimensions, enormous azaleas, a 40-foot high hedge of laurel-cherry (*Prunus Laurocerasus*), a marvelous display of camellias and a fine assortment of conifers. Among the last named the most impressive was a huge tree of *Cupressus cashmeriana* var. *glauca,* reputed to date from the founding of the garden nearly two centuries ago. Another astonishing plant was a mammoth South American wine-palm (*Jubaea chilensis*), said to be the oldest of its kind in Europe (Fig. 5).

Wednesday, May 15, featured a full-day excursion by motorcoach to Intra, where we were ferried across to Laveno, and thence proceeded by way of Gavirate and Varese to Como on the shores of the lake of that name. One of the things that greatly impressed us in northern Italy (as it had on previous trips to Portugal, Spain and Andorra) was the prevalence of our eastern American black locust (*Robinia Pseudo-Acacia*). This tree, which has been widely planted in the Mediterranean for the use of its wood as fence-posts and the value of its flowers for honey bees, has become widely established and is an ubiquitous escape. Nowhere did it seem to be more common than in the dense thickets on the slopes overlooking Lake Como.

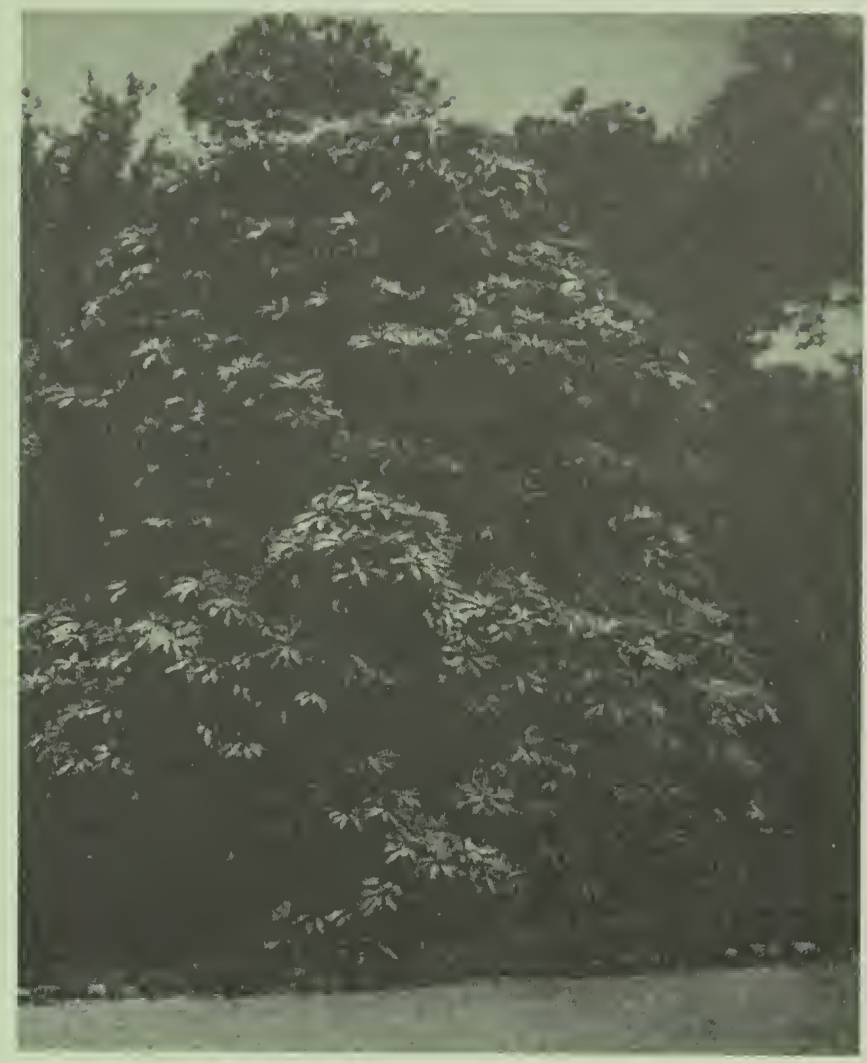
Fig. 4. *Daphniphyllus macropodum* in Villa Taranto

Luncheon this day was at the Ristorante Olmo in Cernobbio on the shores of Lake Como. In the grounds adjoining the restaurant was one of the finest cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) we had ever seen (Fig. 6), as well as enormous specimens of horsechestnut. Following a visit to the town of Como, with its fine old cathedral, we returned to Stresa.

The next day was another excursion by motorcoach, crossing into Switzerland by way of Locarno and Lugano and back into Italy to Tremezzo for lunch. In the afternoon we visited the gardens of the Villa Carlotta, which dates from the early 1700's and, after having passed through the hands of several noble families, is now the property of the state. The main building, which contains several valuable works of art, provides an entry to the gardens which are located on a steep hillside. A salient feature of the Villa Carlotta is its monumental planting of rhododendrons, many of arboreal dimensions. Camellias and clematis were also abundant and a semi-tropical touch was imparted by palms, eucalyptus, and the epiphytic *Monstera.* Here again were *Jubaea chilensis* and *Daphniphyllum macropodum.* Here was a fine stand of a terrestrial orchid, *Bletia hyacinthoides,* with dark rose-purple flowers. Particularly striking was *Cornus controversa variegata,* a form of Oriental dogwood in which the leaves are edged with white. *Fatsia japonica,* 12 to 15 feet tall, was prevalent and gigantic conifers (firs, spruces,

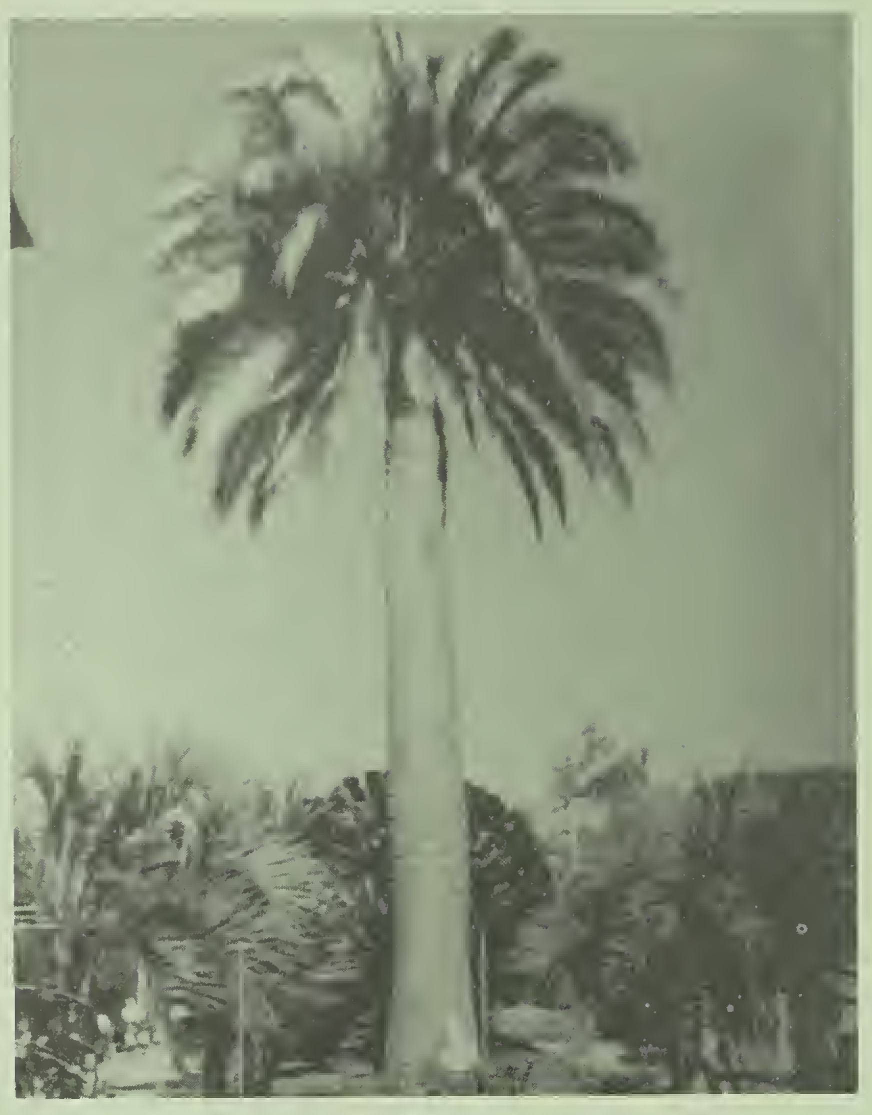

Fig. 5. *Jubaea chilensis* on Isola Madre

cedars, arbor-vitae and cypresses) furnished in some sections a dense canopy of shade.

On Friday, May 17, we departed from Stresa and drove through the countryside of Lombardy, through Bergamo to Brescia, where we stopped for lunch, on to Verona for the night. All three of these north Italian cities possess great charm and interest because of their picturesque location, architectural treasures or ancient monuments. Verona, with its well preserved Roman amphitheater its mediaeval walls, and fine churches, is particularly worth visiting.

The following day we drove to Vicenza and spent the rest of the morning inspecting the incomparable achievements of the 16th century architect, Palladio, which for so many decades has made this city a mecca for students. We then proceeded to Padua and devoted most of the afternoon to visiting the botanical garden there.

The Orto Botanico at Padua was established in 1545, making it one of the oldest institutions of its kind in Europe. Indeed, it is said to be the oldest garden in the world which has remained on its original site. It is administered by the University of Padua of which its Director, Dr. Carlo Cappolletti, is a professor. Although Dr. Cappolletti could not be present he arranged for a member of his staff to receive us and lead us about. This is a small garden (less than four acres) but it makes up in concentrated interest what it lacks in size. It is laid out in a formal manner which is said to differ but little from its original plan and some of the plants here are reputed to date from the 16th century. One of the oldest is a gnarled specimen of a chaste tree (*Vitex Agnus-Castus*) which looks as though it might have come out of the Garden of Eden. What is believed to be the first specimen of the American *Magnolia grandiflora* introduced into Europe (in 1750) is growing here and there is a venerable plant of the palm, *Chamaerops humilis,* protected in a special enclosure. Many of the beds contain representatives of a given plant family or order, others are devoted to drug plants (for, like other ancient gardens, this one was utilized in the teaching of medicine), still others exhibit geographic or ecological relationships. A section allotted to aquatics was of considerable interest.

After leaving the garden we repaired to the Cappella degli Scrovegni to see the famous 14th century frescoes by Giotto and then headed for Venice where we spent the next two days.

Venice is not precisely a horticulturist's paradise, but it is one of the most fascinating cities in the world and the members of the party made good use of their time here in sight-seeing and shopping. On the evening Monday, May 20, we boarded the S. S. Dalmacija for the three and a half day tour along the coast of Jugoslavia.

Our first port of call was Rijeka (formerly Fiume) which we reached early on Tuesday morning. Our schedule that day was a lengthy trip by bus to Plitvice National Park with its spectacular lakes and waterfalls. Our way led first through deciduous forests composed largely of oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), linden (*Tilia cordata*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), and chokecherry (*Prunus Padus*). Two native shrubs, *Cornus sanguinea* and *Sambucus nigra,* were much in evidence and there were numerous plantations of poplar, here regarded as a valuable timber tree. *Robinia Pseudo-Acacia* was as widely naturalized here as it had been in northern Italy and two other exotic species, *Ailanthus altissima* and *Aesculus Hippocastanum,* were of frequent occurrence. Later the road took us through higher ground where Norway spruce, (*Picea Abies*) and Greek fir (*Abies cephalonica*) were the dominant trees.

Following luncheon at the hotel at Plitvice, we wandered for nearly two hours along trails bordering a series of descending lakes, with weird rock formations and majestic waterfalls at every turn (Fig. 7). A handsome tree which we had not seen before, namely, flowering ash (*Fraxinus Ornus*) was here in full bloom.

Our ship sailed from Rijeka late that evening and early the next morning we landed at Split, where a morning of sightseeing was in order. Driving along the winding, rocky shoreline near Split we saw our first aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*), a characteristic species of Mediterranean coasts. Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) and cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) were dominant and strawberry tree (*Arbutus Unedo*) was a conspicuous evergreen shrub.

Our morning at Split included two memorable experiences. One was a visit to the newly constructed museum housing the work of the great Jugoslavian sculptor, Ivan Mestrovic. The other was a walk through the recently excavated ruins of the Palace of Diocletian, built in the third and fourth centuries A.D.

Back on shipboard, we sailed along the Dalmatian coast, arriving at Dubrovnik in late afternoon. A short ride by bus to a promontory south of the harbor provided some fine scenery, as well as our introduction to that remarkable vegetational formation known as maquis. This natural plant community, which is characteristic of so much of the Mediterranean, is made up of a dense thicket of low stiff shrubs, often spiny and usually endowed with leathery, evergreen foliage. It was composed here of various kinds of broom, heather, and sage, interspersed with Christ's-thorn (*Paliurus spina-christi*) and mastic (*Pistacia Lentiscus*). Another plant, which our guide insisted upon calling "marsh mallow" proved to be a woolly-leaved, aromatic species of the Composite genus *Helichrysum.*

The ancient and picturesque walled city of Dubrovnik merits at least half a day, if not more, but unfortunately it was almost dusk when we reached it and we had to be satisfied with a brief visit in the old church and cloister and a walk along the central promenade.

Thursday, May 23, was spent at sea, steaming between the rocky shores of the mainland and the multitudinous islands on our starboard. By 5:30 Friday morning everyone was up on deck to watch the ship pass through the Corinth Canal. This amazingly narrow cut, (which appears to be only about a mile long, but is really more than four) actually makes an island of the Peloponnesian Peninsula and shortens the cruise from the Adriatic into the Aegean Sea by several hundred miles. By early forenoon our ship docked at Piraeus and shortly thereafter we were at our hotel in Athens.

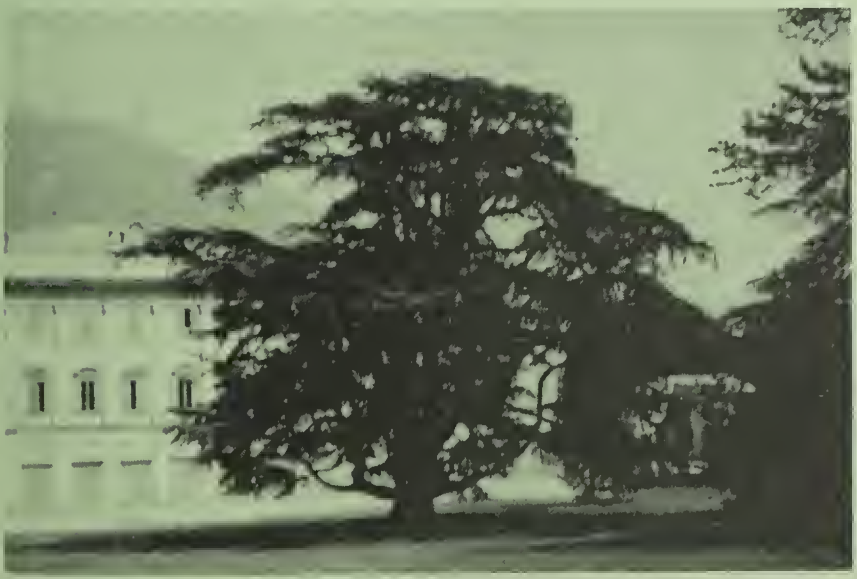

Fig. 6. *Cedrus libani* at Cernobbio

BARNES LECTURE

The sixth Laura L. Barnes Lecture on Botany and Horticulture was held in the auditorium of the Penn Valley School on April 18th. The speaker was Dr. William C. Steere, Director of the New York Botanical Garden, who delivered an illustrated lecture on "Plants of the Tundra." Dr. Steere, who is one of the world's leading students of mosses, has spent many summers studying the vegetation of those bleak but botanically fascinating areas north of the Arctic Circle. His talk was illustrated with excellent pictures showing many of the brilliantly colored flowers of the tundra.

It will surprise no one that on our first afternoon in Athens we visited the Acropolis. The excellent guide, who had been assigned to accompany us during our week in Greece, had us first driven to the adjoining Hill of Muses, where we had a spectacular view of the Acropolis while he favored us with a brief outline of the history of ancient Greece. A botanist may perhaps be pardoned for noting (though he lost nothing of our guide's discourse) that all around us, were such fascinating plants as Christ's-thorn (already seen at Dubrovnik), capers (*Capparis spinosa*), mastic (*Pistacia Lentiscus*), and a very entertaining woody medick with legumes flattened into a single spiral. This proved to be *Medicago arborea.*

Any description of the Acropolis itself, one of civilization's greatest monuments, it not germane to this chronicle, therefore we must move on to the following "morning at leisure" (May 25) when most of us paid a visit to the Botanical Gardens of the University of Athens. Dr. C. Diapoulis, the Director and Professor of Botany, was otherwise engaged that day, but had kindly arranged to have two members of his staff available to accompany us on a tour of inspection. In a small, but thoughtfully planted enclosure, were hundreds of interesting species, some native to Greece and many introduced from other lands. Here we enjoyed a kind of preview of some of the plants we were to see in our next few days trips into the Greek countryside. The Athenian counterpart of peanuts is pistachio, which had been thrust upon us everywhere we walked around the capital. This is, of course *Pistacia vera* an Anacardiaceous species native to Asia Minor, which is widely cultivated

Fig. 7. View in Plitvice National Park

throughout Greece. Fine fruiting plants were to be seen in this garden and we were glad to have a close-up view of its foliage and fruit. Among the numerous exotic plants in this garden were the paloverde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) from the Southwestern United States, the "tree tobacco" (*Nicotiana glauca*) from Mexico and Central America, a handsome cactus from South America (*Cereus peruvianus*) and the pantropic *Caesalpinia pulcherrima.* We were told that plans are in preparation for the expansion of this garden and if these are realized it might well become one of the most important botanical installations in the eastern Mediterranean.

On the way back to the hotel some of us paid our respects to the National Museum of Athens with its magnificent representation of Greek cultures. Of particular interest was the section devoted to the civilization of Mycenae, which were to visit a few days later.

That afternoon we went by bus to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. We passed by Lagonissus, with its extensive salt-evaporating flats, and paused a few miles beyond for our first view of the temple in the distance and our first intimate contact with the maquis of Greece, similar to and yet different from that of Dubrovnik.

Here, on even a hurried inspection, we were able to identify a number of low-growing spiny Composites, among them *Carthamus arborescens* and *Pallenis spinosus.* Here, also, was a low-mounded thorny spurge (*Euphorbia acanthothamnos*) and a densely compacted evergreen thyme (*Coridothymus capitatus*). Strawberry bush and mastic (both previously noted) were likewise prevalent, as was the ubiquitous laurel or bay (*Laurus nobilis*).

On Sunday, May 26, our party departed from Athens for a four-day bus trip through the Peloponnesus and adjacent southern Greece. Our first stop was at Daphni with its 11th century Byzantine church. Thence we proceeded to Corinth, pausing briefly to look down into the canal through which our ship had been towed two days earlier.

If no mention has yet been made of oleander (*Nerium Oleander*) this is not because it was absent. On the contrary, it is probably the most widely cultivated shrub in Greece. Along both sides of the highway west of the canal it stretched for miles, its white to pinkish flowers forming a colorful hedge.

The ruins at Corinth, dating mainly from the 6th century B.C., are among the most significant of any outside of Athens itself. Here is a fine museum and in the surrounding area the Doric temple of Apollo, the Asklipeion, the Agora and the Peirene Fountain, all set off by rugged mountains in the background. Here were many botanical friends, including capers, borages, mints and composites.

Mycenae antedates Corinth by several centuries and its remains are correspondingly less well preserved. Here it was that we first saw specimens of that spiny-leaved holly-like oak known as *Quercus coccifera.*

The rocky hillsides in the vicinity of Mycenae support a typical maquis vegetation (Fig. 8). Here, in addition to many of the plants we had seen before, were thorny broom (*Calycotome infesta*), *Cistus salviaefolius, Medicago marina,* and *Eryngium campestre,* the last named a spiny, bluish-green, thistle-like plant, quite unlike the species of *Eryngium* which we are accustomed to seeing along our coastal marshes. Another surprise was thorny burnet (*Poterium spinosum*), a low compact almost hemispherical shrub with intertwining spiny branches and minute leaves. Our last stop on that crowded day was to visit the renowned theater of Epidauris, before checking in at our hotel at Nauplia.

The next day (May 27) we drove across the Argos plain and over the Arcadian hills through Tripolis and Vytina to Olympia. Although it is not supposed to rain in Greece in May, we encountered violent storms on this drive, which made it difficult to photograph the impressive forest of Greek fir (*Abies cephalonica*) through which we passed. Even when we arrived in Olympia in late afternoon the skies were overcast and an occasional drizzle occurred.

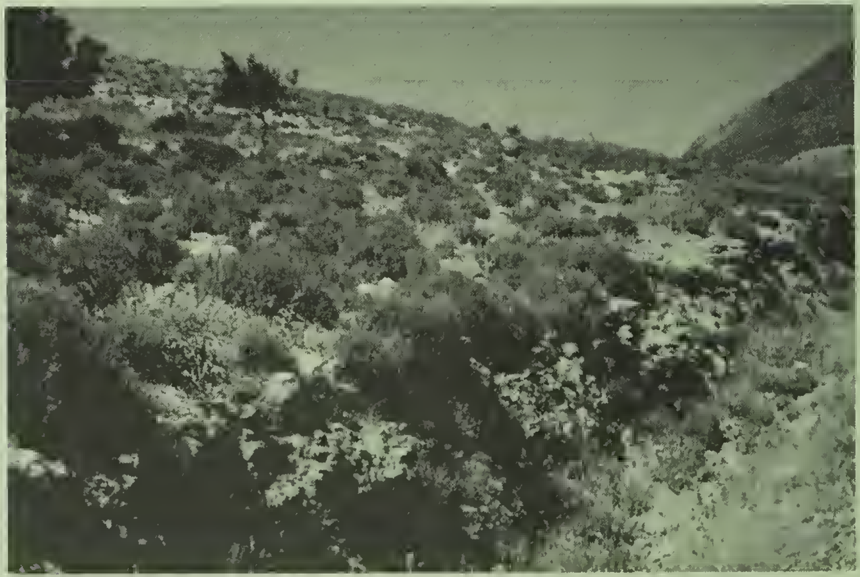

Fig. 8. Maquis vegetation at Mycenae

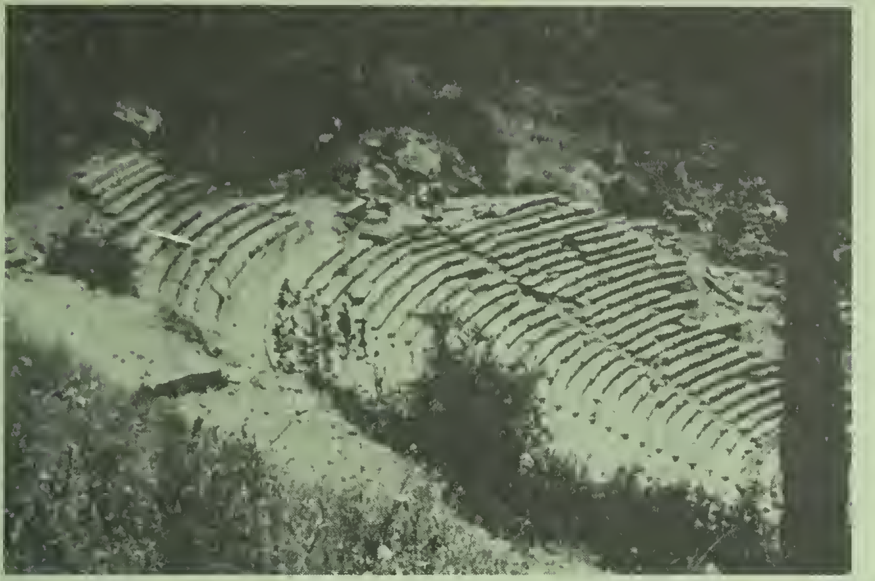

Fig. 9. The theater at Delphi

This famous cradle of the Olympic games which are supposed to have had their origin here in 776 B.C., is situated in a pleasant valley surrounded by pine-clad hills. To our amazement the most conspicuous tree along the banks of the stream was the Oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*). This species which is believed to be indigenous to Turkey, has been cultivated in Greece for many centuries and is now as widely established as we had found black locust to be elsewhere on our tour. The Oriental differs from our western plane (*P. occidentalis*) in its more deeply lobed leaves and the larger number (3 to 7) of carpellate inflorescences on a peduncle.

The ruins at Olympia, many of which have been leveled by earthquakes, include the Palaestra, the Gymnasium, the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Zeus, and the Stadium, where most of the games were held.

As we wandered through this forest of stones, where only a few of the columns were still standing, we were impressed by the great diversity of herbaceous plants. The asphodel (*Asphodelus microcarpus*) had passed flower, but its fruiting stalks were everywhere to be seen. The Borage and Mint Families were represented by several genera and at least a dozen species. The giant fennel (*Ferula communis*) reared its enormous stalks against ancient marbles, while the acanthus (*Acanthus mollis*) whose leaves are reputed to have provided the motifs for the designs of Corinthian columns, was of frequent occurrence, especially in the workshop of Phidias.

After a visit the following morning to the Museum, which houses the famous statue of Hermes by Praxiteles, we departed from Olympia and drove northward to Aegion, where we took the ferry for the three hour trip across the Gulf of Corinth to Itea, the port of Delphi. Unfortunately upon our arrival it was too dark for us to appreciate the beauty of the dense carpet of olive trees which stretches from Itea up to the lofty perch occupied by the ruins of Delphi. However, the next morning, as we looked down upon it, we were well prepared to accept the statement of our guide that the grove contained well over a million trees.

The morning of Wednesday, May 29, was devoted to visiting the ruins of Delphi, the sanctuary of Apollo. The Olympic games, although originating in Olympia, were later conducted in many of the city states. Therefore, Delphi too has its stadium, as well as its well-preserved theater (Fig. 9). Here, also, are the Temple of Apollo, the Treasure of the Athenians, and numerous other remnants of this sacred ancient shrine which housed the Oracle of Delphi on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus. Interspersed among the fallen marbles was a great diversity of plant species including terebinth (*Pistacia terebinthus*), the squirting cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*), several species of *Scabiosa,* and an enormous fennel which we had not seen before (*Smyrnium perfoliatum*). Laurel and strawberry bush (*Arbutus Unedo*) were everywhere and the crimson flowers of pomegranate (*Punica Granatum*) stood out boldly against the native limestone boulders and the ancient marbles.

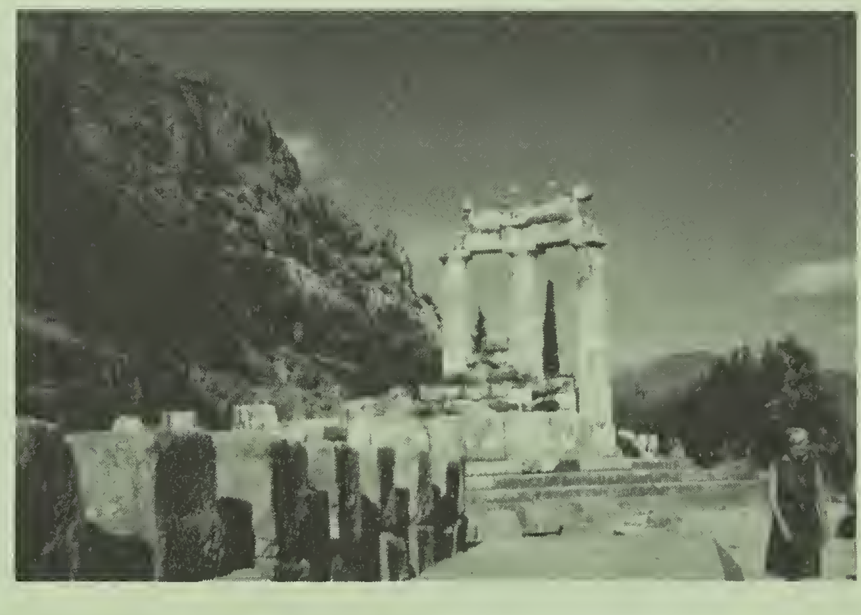

Fig. 10. The Tholos at Delphi

In the afternoon we visited the Museum, with its renowned statue of the Charioteer, and the Tholos, a fourth century B.C. circular structure dedicated to Athena Pronaea (Fig. 10). One's lasting impression of Greece must be that it is not only the birthplace of our civilization, but an incomparable natural garden of plants.

Early the following morning we left Delphi for Athens whence we emplaned for Zurich, where we spent the night and from which we departed on May 31 for home.

NOTES FROM THE ARBORETUM

New Rose Family Collection

One of the important aspects of any arboretum in which teaching is conducted is to have members of the same family or genus concentrated in a single area. To a large extent Mrs. Barnes accomplished this objective and it is thus possible for students to compare the representatives of such genera as *Viburnum, Lonicera, Ilex, Taxus, Hamamelis, Corylopsis* and *Magnolia* without having to walk from one section of the grounds to another.

The most significant exception to the above arrangement is seen in the shrubby members on the Rosaceae or Rose Family, which happens to be our largest and most important family of woody ornamentals. It is true that most of the Arboretum's 54 species and varieties of *Cotoneaster* are grouped close to the Gallery, either against its southern wall or slightly to the northeast of the building (where they badly crowded, densely shaded and encountering fierce root competition from nearby trees.) Most other members of the family, however, are widely scattered about the grounds and a comparative examination of them involves considerable expenditure of time and energy.

It is because of this consideration that plans have been developed for bringing together as many members of the Rosaceae as can conveniently be assembled in a single restricted area. Obviously, it is not feasible to include such arboreal genera as *Malus, Sorbus, Pyrus,* and *Prunus* (which are already established in the Arboretum as mature trees) but there are more than a score of shrubby groups which lend themselves to such a grouping. The list includes:

Physocarpus
Neillia
Stephanandra
Spiraea
Sorbaria
Exochorda
Cotoneaster
Pyracantha
Aronia
Photinia
Stranvaesia
Amelanchier
Chaenomeles
Cydonia
Neviusia
Kerria
Rhodotypos
Rubus
Potentilla
Cercocarpus
Rosa
Prinsepia

The site which has been selected for this collection is a rectangular area, approximately 90 by 45 feet, lying along Lapsley Road just north of the greenhouses. As this goes to press the first plants are being established in their assigned spots, according to a sequence which will reflect their natural relationships within the various subfamilies of the Rosaceae.

Although we are transplanting into this new garden a few of our own specimens, for the most part we are relying upon the acquisition of fresh, nursery-grown stock. It is hoped that as this collection increases in the number of shrubby species it will form a valuable adjunct to our teaching needs.

Refresher Course in Plant Propagation

In response to numerous requests from former students, Mr. C. Gordon Tyrrell, Director of Gardens at Winterthur and for many years a member of our teaching staff, has agreed to offer a refresher course in Plant Propagation on Wednesday mornings. The course will run for 14 weeks during the fall term and will be repeated for a new group of students during the spring term.

Because of space limitations in the greenhouse (where much of the work will be conducted), Mr. Tyrrell desires to limit the size of the class to 15 students. Registration will be on a "first come, first served" basis.

This course will differ from the one given in the regular program in that it will be more practical, with "do-it-yourself" experiments carried out by the members of the class in the greenhouse.

Emphasis will be placed on such topics as: determination of seed quality, dormancy problems, refrigeration and stratifying, germination, cuttings (leaf, leaf-bud, root, softwood and hardwood), budding and grafting.

The Herbarium

In the fall of 1966, with the purchase of two upright, 26-pigeon-hole, all steel cases, the Arboretum started an herbarium. The collection has grown so rapidly that recently two new cases were added.

It is the ultimate aim of this herbarium to include mounted specimens of every species, variety, form and cultivar growing in the Arboretum. Moreover, each of these is being collected in flower, in fruit and, when significant, in the fall or winter condition. In this manner the herbarium will eventually constitute a valuable set of vouchers for all of the living plants in the Arboretum. It will also be a valuable teaching aid and a resource for the study of critical groups of woody plants.

Multiple sets for distribution are being assembled and already an exchange of specimens has been activated with the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. Negotiations are currently under way to set up similar agreement with other important arboreta.

A New-old Holly

Thanks to the generosity of a good friend of the Arboretum, Mr. Philip A. Livingston, a very unusual holly has recently been added to our collection. It is a form of *Ilex Aquifolium* which Mr. Livingston informs us was first imported 40 years ago from England by Mrs. Barnes. The mother plant died, but cuttings survived, and Mr. Livingston felt that the cultivar should return "home" to the Arboretum. The American Holly Society is now establishing the correct name for this holly.

Mr. H. Gleason Mattoon believed the plant to be *I. A.* 'Smithiana', but this name has never been verified. The leaf shape is distinctive among all English Hollies.